

Dear Legislators:

My name is Mary Marcuccio, and I am the Founder, Spokesperson, and President of *Parents 4 A Change*. My non-profit group is dedicated to providing resources and support to parents in crisis with a child (adol., teen, early 20s) that's addicted to opiates (pain pills such as percocet, vicodin, oxycontin, or heroin). I, myself, have a drug-addicted son, now in his early 20s, so I speak from experience on this issue of opiate addiction and its fallout.

I'm writing to you in support of *House Bill 5523 An Act Concerning Reentry*. I believe, and it's the position of P4AC, that there needs to be a change in the legislation concerning questions on employment applications --- specifically, removing the question "**Have you ever been convicted of a felony?**" It is my understanding that this bill would be a first step toward accomplishing that goal in the bigger picture of employment applications.

I, we, believe that a person applying for a job should be evaluated on his/her merits alone, NOT disqualified from consideration at the very first step in the process because of a conviction *history*.

In our case, many of our drug addicted kids get into trouble with the law, arrests, convictions --- then subsequently get CLEAN AND SOBER and are making efforts to get their lives on track; the felony conviction (that many have) is a permanent *scarlet letter* that usually prohibits them from getting a job and therefore being a productive member of society, as they want to do. By removing this question, we as a society are **at least** giving "Johnny" a chance to interview and make a case for the job, instead of his application surely going straight into the trashcan!! I have many parents in my group that will tell you the horror stories about how difficult it's been for their *NOW clean and sober child* (with a felony conviction) to get a job because of the prohibitive *scarlet letter* question on employment applications: "**Have you ever been convicted of a felony?**"... Most are not gainfully employed because of this very reason.

P4AC and I fully support this bill, as a vital first step in a pathway of needed changes in regards to employment applications. We truly appreciate any support that YOU can give to this issue, as we believe that we owe it to our children to help them when they're willing and ready to help themselves!!

THANK YOU,

MARY MARCUCCIO, *Parents 4 A Change*  
45 Woodruff St., Southington CT 06489  
860-628-1569

[www.parents4achange.net](http://www.parents4achange.net)